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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/809,341

03/26/2004

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119262

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EXAMINER

MRUK, GEOFFREY S

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2853

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07/18/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/809,341	NAKASHIMA, ATSUHISA	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Geoffrey Mruk	2853	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 July 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-5 and 9-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-5, and 9-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/25/07</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 3, 4, and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takahashi et al. (US 6,203,136 B1).

With respect to claim 1, Takahashi discloses a print head cap (Column 1, lines 10-14) comprising:

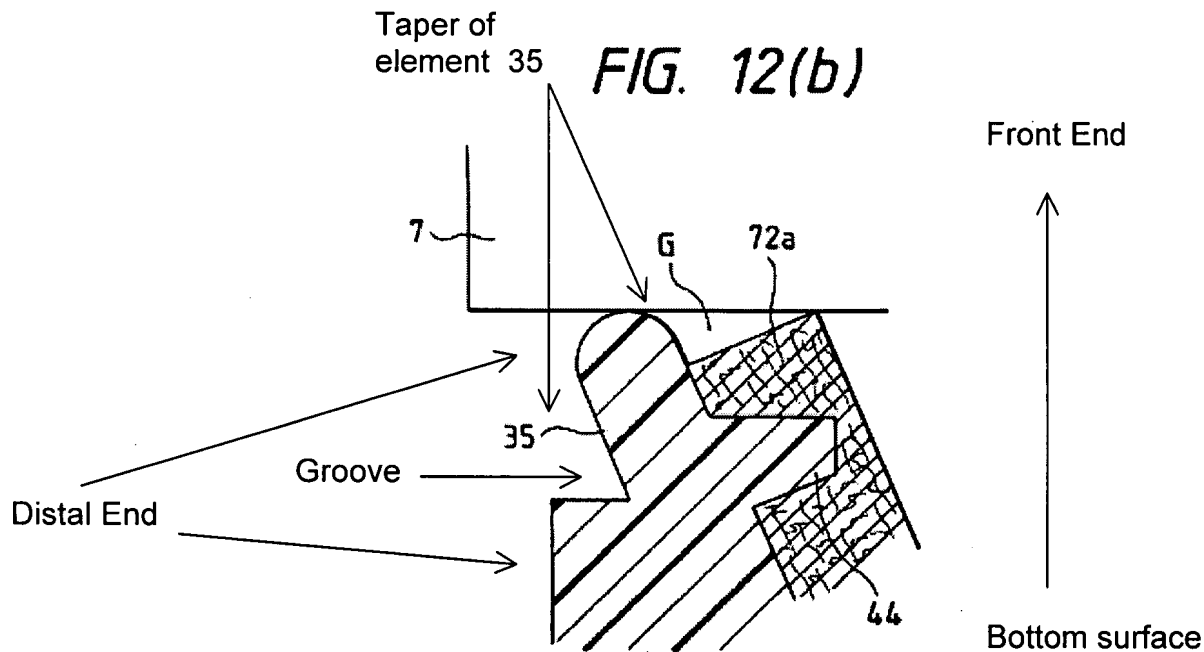
- a bottom surface (Fig. 12a, element 34); and
- a ring-like lip (Fig. 7a, element 35) surrounding the bottom surface like a ring, protruding toward a nozzle surface (Fig. 12a, element 7) of a print head an ink jet printer and being elastically deformable, the ring-like lip to be pressed onto the nozzle surface to cover the nozzle surface therewith (Column 6, lines 44-50);
- wherein the ring-like lip has corners (Fig. 7a, element 35a) that change a direction of surrounding the bottom surface; and includes a distal end (See Fig. 12b below) and a groove (See Fig. 12b below) that urges the distal end to be deformed in an outer side of the ring-like lip (Fig. 12b, element 35), the distal end falling downward to an inside of the groove when a print head cap is pressed onto the nozzle surface (Column 6, lines 44-54, i.e. cap expands); and

- the corners are more elastically deformable than the other portion of the ring-like lip (Column 6, lines 9-10), and the corners (Fig. 7a, element 35) are made thinner than the other portion (Column 6, lines 11-19; Claim 12).

With respect to claim 3, Takahashi discloses the other portion includes a plurality of side lips (Fig. 7a, element 35b); at least one of the corners (Fig. 7a element 35a) includes a corner lip; and the corner lip connects the side lips with each other.

With respect to claim 4, Takahashi discloses each of the side lips (Fig. 7a, element 35b) has a front end and is formed into a tapered sectional shape which is smaller in width as a location goes from the bottom surface toward the front end (See Fig. 12b below); and the corner lip has substantially the same height (Column 6, lines 45-48, i.e. sealing the recording head) as the side lips and is smaller than the side lips in thickness (Column 6, lines 11-19; Claim 12).

With respect to claim 5, Takahashi discloses the ring-like lip is formed into a rectangular shape (Fig. 7a, i.e. plan view of element 35); and the side lips (Fig. 7a, element 35b) include a pair of linear side lips on long sides and a pair linear side lips on short sides.



### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 9, 10, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi et al. (US 6,203,136 B1) in view of Kusumi et al. (US 6,068,364).

With respect to claims 9, 10, and 11 Takahashi discloses a printhead cap as applied to claims 1, 3, 4, and 5 above.

However, Takahashi fails to disclose:

- the groove extends vertically and perpendicular to the bottom surface and

- an outer surface of the side lip extends vertically and perpendicular to the bottom; and
- an inner surface of the side lip extends in a direction that is not perpendicular to the bottom surface.

Kusumi discloses a cap for a service station for ink-jet printheads where

- the groove (Fig. 4, element 48) extends vertically and perpendicular to the bottom surface and
- an outer surface of the side lip extends vertically and perpendicular (Fig. 4, element 40) to the bottom and
- an inner surface of the side lip (Fig. 4, element 50) extends in a direction that is not perpendicular to the bottom surface (Column 3, line 66 – Column 4, line 3)..

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the cap disclosed by Kusumi as the capping device disclosed by Takahashi. The motivation for doing so would have been “An object of the present invention is to provide an effective seal between the cavity defined by a cap and the ambient environment without any absorbent pad” (Column 1, lines 65-67).

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3-5, and 9-11 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

**Conclusion**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Geoffrey Mruk whose telephone number is (571) 272-2810. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30am - 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Meier can be reached on (571) 272-2149. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

GSM  
7/12/2007

GM



STEPHEN MEIER  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER